

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

**AMENDMENT DATE:** May 12, 2009  
**POSITION:** Neutral, note concerns

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 597  
**AUTHOR:** C. Liu

### **BILL SUMMARY:** Child Welfare Services: Foster Care: Adoption

This bill would implement various provisions of the federal Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351).

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

The 2009 Budget Act includes \$594,000 (\$411,000 General Fund) for 6.0 positions to implement the requirements of Public Law 110-351.

The 2009 Budget Act also includes local assistance funding of \$3 million (\$858,000 General Fund) for educational travel costs and \$2 million General Fund for health care coordination and oversight.

### **COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is neutral with regards to this bill, but notes that while it is not necessary to codify federal requirements in state law, this bill would not adequately address the provisions of Public Law 110-351 related to the health oversight of children in foster care.

Under current law, allowable foster care costs include food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance, and reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation. Current law requires all children in foster care to receive periodic medical and dental screenings according to a periodicity schedule, published by the Department of Health Care Services, and based on the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Current law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) and all licensed adoption agencies to provide every prospective adoptive family with information related to the legal adoption of a child in foster care, including, but not limited to, available resources such as Adoption Assistance Program benefits, to remove or reduce economic barriers to adoption.

The purpose of this bill is to bring California into compliance with the new requirements of Public Law 110-351. Specifically, this bill would do the following:

- Expand the definition of care to include the cost of reasonable travel for a child to remain in the school in which he or she was enrolled at the time of placement.
- Require the DSS to (1) consult with pediatricians, child welfare services experts, the Child Welfare Council, and other health care providers to develop a health oversight and coordination plan for children in foster care, and (2) ensure the plan represents a coordinated strategy to identify and respond to the health care, mental health, and dental needs of children in foster care, pursuant to Public Law 110-351.
- Require the DSS and all licensed adoption agencies to inform prospective adoptive parents of their potential eligibility for a federal adoption credit.

Analyst/Principal (0561) M. Aguilera	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

<b>BILL ANALYSIS</b>	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)****Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

C. Liu

May 12, 2009

SB 597

The provisions of this bill regarding health care coordination and oversight would mirror federal requirements, but would not specify a method of achieving compliance. Therefore, the DSS suggests amendments that would achieve compliance with the federal law and which are identical to trailer bill language proposed by the Administration, but ultimately not included in Chapter 4, Statutes of 2009 (ABX4 4, the Omnibus Human Services Trailer Bill).

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	Code
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary				-----	0001
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary				-----	0001